

ANTH 210

INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jennifer Claire Robinson

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to visual, sensory, and creative research methods and knowledge sharing practices in anthropology. This course investigates the earliest uses of film and photography by anthropologists and ethnographers at the turn of the 20th century, the rise of cultural and media studies during the 1960s and 70s, to the development of visual anthropology as a sub-discipline of anthropology in the 1990s. Throughout the course we will examine the production, circulation, and reception of visual culture in forms such as photography, ethnographic films, advertising, comics, art, activism, gallery installations, and museum exhibitions. We will also consider how power and politics have always influenced representations of culture as well as the methodological and ethical issues involved when using visual and sensory research methods.

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify and critically examine historical, ethical, and methodological issues entailed in visual and sensory anthropological research and representations.
2. Examine film, video, photography, exhibitions, advertising etc. as technologies that both enable cultural representations and reflect the cultural and historical contexts of their production.
3. Discuss key anthropological theories of representation, identity, production, collaboration, distribution, consumption, and power through examination of various media.
4. Be familiar with visual and sensory anthropological research methods through course project development.